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File "Memor to DCI"

23 May 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
FROM : PB/NSC Coordinator
SUBJECT : Counting Theater Nuclear Forces



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1. At one of the last Pre-Briefs before you gave the 6 May Presidential Briefing on the "Military Balance," you asked the OSR representative () for some information on just how they went about counting TNF. ()

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2. Attached is a memorandum they have prepared. After you have had a chance to review you might want to meet with () (the author), some OSR representatives and the NIO/GPF. ()


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Attachment

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19 May 1980

MEMORANDUM

Theater Nuclear Forces

25X1 Theater Nuclear Forces (TNF) counting is an art form. These forces have been presented in many different ways, but depending on the producing agency, there are two basic sources of variance. Assumptions concerning system capabilities and mission assignment affect the final counting, while differences in basic definitions and doctrinal outlook effect the very selection of the forces being counted. The accompanying list of theater nuclear systems is derived from an IIM published early this year which set up a TNF data base according to community agreed assumptions. [REDACTED]

Capabilities and Mission

25X1 Many comparisons of TNF are categorized by range. The upper bound is generally accepted as 5500 km, with other breaks at 1000 and 100 km. All those systems over 1000 km range are classed as LRTNF, those between 1000 and 100 as MRTNF, and those below 100 km as SRTNF. These break points have not yet been accepted as formal negotiation or otherwise official positions. Categorization by range has the advantage of allowing systems belonging to diverse operational and technical categories to be shown together. [REDACTED]

This memorandum was prepared by Aris Pappas of the Western Forces Branch, Theater Forces Division, Office of Strategic Research.

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